



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF  
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL AND  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

April 6, 2012

Jeff DeFreest, District Ranger  
Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District, Tongass National Forest  
3031 Tongass Avenue  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Re: EPA comments on the Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Outfitter and Guide Management Plan Final  
Environmental Impact Study, EPA Project # 11-4111-AFS.

Dear Mr. DeFreest:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the **Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Outfitter and Guide Management Plan** (CEQ # 20120056) in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA).

We commend the Forest Service for selecting Alternative B, with modifications, as its preferred alternative in the Final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD). We identified Alternative B as the EPA's environmentally preferable alternative in our comment letter on the Draft EIS. We continue to maintain that the selected alternative strikes a good balance between resource protection and public and commercial use. We also believe that the adaptive management plan identified in the ROD will allow the Forest Service to adjust the mitigation strategy for impacts to wildlife and vegetation. We appreciate the inclusion of modifications to Alternative B to address the issues identified by the EPA and others who commented on the Draft EIS. Finally, we appreciate the Forest Service providing a 45-day wait period for appeals.

We thank you for the opportunity to review the Final EIS. Please feel free to contact me at (206) 553-1601 or by electronic mail at [reichgott.christine@epa.gov](mailto:reichgott.christine@epa.gov), or you may contact Jennifer Curtis of my staff in Anchorage at (907) 271-6324 or [curtis.jennifer@epa.gov](mailto:curtis.jennifer@epa.gov) if you have questions or would like additional information regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine B. Reichgott".

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager  
Environmental Review and Sediments Management Unit